



City of Goodyear, Arizona

**Private College or University
Request for Information (RFI)**

Submissions Due: April 21, 2006

Introduction

The City of Goodyear is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) to obtain information from institutions of higher education that may be interested in establishing a four-year college or university within the City of Goodyear, Arizona. The City of Goodyear views the opportunity to attract a postsecondary partner to the community as vital to its future and is prepared to bring all appropriate and available resources to the partnership. Goodyear is committed to the creation of a mutually beneficial partnership to expand the educational opportunities available within the community. In furtherance of this, the information requested may be used as background information for the development of a future Invitation to Bid or RFP that would assist the City in selecting an appropriate college or university.

Evaluation

Responses will be evaluated based upon the information presented in the following areas:

- Structure
- Financial
- Partnering
- Other

Purpose

The purpose of this RFI is to obtain information on institutions of higher education to enable the City to make informed decisions about the development of appropriate postsecondary education opportunities within its community. The City will consider accredited, long-term postsecondary education providers, with an established business plan to provide four-year degrees through a traditional campus environment. The City will also consider institutions that have not yet been accredited assuming a strategic plan to achieve accreditation is in place.

Despite its large population, the greater Phoenix region is home to only a limited number of four-year, private postsecondary education institutions. With the tremendous growth taking place throughout Arizona, there is a strong and increasing demand for additional institutions of higher education. The establishment of a high quality four-year college or university in Goodyear would help meet that demand. The City of Goodyear recognizes the importance of higher education and is committed to expanding the educational resources in the state.

City of Goodyear --- Background

Nestled near the base of the Estrella Mountains, just 20 minutes west of downtown Phoenix, Goodyear offers its residents a “best of both worlds” quality of life. It provides all the advantages of a small city – residents with a strong sense of community, safe neighborhoods, and an accessible and responsive government.

Its close proximity to the nation's 5th largest city affords its residents easy access to all the amenities of a larger community.

The City's strong support for economic and infrastructure development has, in part, led to dynamic population and job growth. With a current population of approximately 40,000, the City is experiencing an annual population growth rate of 16%. By the year 2010, Goodyear's population is expected to reach 100,000. In 2010, according to current projections, 30,000 people will work in the City of Goodyear, and, by 2030, that number will reach 100,000. With more than 40,000 acres of undeveloped land, the City has an unparalleled opportunity to design and build a premiere destination city with few restrictions.

Goodyear is located in the West Valley of the fastest growing county in America - Maricopa County. The largest county within the state of Arizona, Maricopa County represents 60% of the state's population. The West Valley will see a tremendous surge in growth over the next 25 years, with four West Valley cities, Buckeye, Glendale, Goodyear, and Surprise, seeing populations swell to more than 300,000 by 2030. This will represent 30% of the total population of Maricopa County. In addition, the West Valley is expected to supply one in four jobs in the County.

The population of Goodyear provides an ideal demographic environment to allow a higher education institution to prosper. The population is characterized by residents with above average household income and strong education experience as shown in the following statistics:

Average Household Income (2005)*:	\$75,396
Median Household Income (2005)*:	\$58,666
Household Income > \$50K (2004)**:	61%
Household Income > \$75K (2004)**:	34%
College Educated (2004)**:	56%
Bachelor Degree or Higher (2004)**:	81%

* 2005, Sites USA, Chandler, AZ

** 2004 Goodyear Citizen Satisfaction Survey conducted by Behavior Research, Inc., Phoenix, AZ

Conclusion

The City of Goodyear has a bright future, and one that will be dramatically enhanced through a partnership with a high-quality postsecondary education institution. The information received in this RFI is an important step in developing such a partnership.

**CITY OF GOODYEAR
RFI – PRIVATE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY**

Information Requested:

Based on the background information provided above, interested parties are invited to respond to the following questions and to provide such supplemental information as deemed appropriate, not to exceed 25 pages in total length.

RFI Responses

Please provide responses to the following inquiries:

Structure:

1. Please describe the legal structure of your existing or proposed institution, including whether it is or would be structured as a for-profit or not-for-profit organization.
2. Please describe the operating structure of your existing or proposed institution, including the location and size of any existing campus of your institution.
3. Please describe the present accreditation status of your existing or proposed institution, and your understanding of how any existing accreditation would be extended to a new campus of the institution.
4. Please describe the mission of your existing or proposed institution.
5. Please describe the academic philosophy and focus of your existing or proposed institution, including the basis of your curriculum and student profile. .

Financial:

6. Please describe in general terms efforts to date or interest in development of a comprehensive financial plan for expansion of the institution.
7. Please indicate what types of institutional financial statements could be made available to the City in the event serious discussions were to be pursued.

8. Please describe in general terms efforts to date to develop a development plan for attracting private and public resources to support the institution's expansion.
9. Please describe the present status of your institution's participation in Title IV programs of the U.S. Department of Education, and your understanding of how student financial aid will be extended to students of the new campus of the institution.

Partnering:

10. Please describe any anticipated participation in the development of a new campus of your institution by third parties, such as real estate developers or lenders.
11. Please describe any assistance that may be requested from the City to provide land and the ability to use it.
12. Please describe any assistance that may be necessary from the City to assist in the development of infrastructure and associated municipal services.
13. Please describe any assistance that may be necessary from the City in terms of development plan approvals and permit issuances.
14. Please describe any other forms of financial assistance that may be helpful from the City, such as allowable tax incentives, recruitment and job training assistance, scholarship assistance and promotional assistance.

Other:

15. Please provide any additional information you believe would be helpful in guiding the City's efforts to establish a partnership with a private college or university.
16. Please provide any additional information specific to your existing or proposed institution that would enable the City to better evaluate the prospects for successful pursuit of a partnership that would result in bringing your existing or proposed institution to the City.

How to Respond

Please submit ten (10) hard copies and one electronic copy (MS Word format) on CD or diskette. Include institution name, address and telephone number. Additionally, please provide the institution's name, title, telephone number and email address of your institution's designated contact person for questions or clarification of your response.

Please submit your response no later than **3:30 PM (MST) April 21, 2006**.

Response should be sent or delivered to:

City of Goodyear
Attn: Bob Carrier
190 North Litchfield Road
PO Box 5100
Goodyear, Arizona 85338

Reimbursements

Neither the City of Goodyear nor the City Clerk's Office shall reimburse the cost of developing, presenting or providing any response to this request. Submittals should be prepared simply and economically, providing adequate information in a straightforward and concise manner.

Contact Information

Specific questions concerning this RFI may be directed to:

Kelly Dalton – kdalton@goodyearaz.gov
623.882.7782

The City of Goodyear has not authorized any individuals to represent the City or work on behalf of the City.